

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the following discussion and in view of the present amendment, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9 are cancelled. Claims 10-12, 14-17, 19 and 20 are pending.

I. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office Action, at page 2, claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,402,053 to Kelley in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,816,733 to Sakakibara et al. In the Office Action, at page 4, claims 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kelley, Sakakibara and U.S. Patent No. 6,597,971 to Kanno. In the Office Action, at page 5, claims 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kelley in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,613,269 to Wilder et al. Claims 1-9 are cancelled. Accordingly, withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejections is respectfully requested.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants are appreciative of the indication that claims 10-12, 14-17, 19 and 20 have been allowed.

Conclusion

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1-9 have been cancelled. Claims 10-12, 14-17, 19 and 20 are pending and under consideration.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.


Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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